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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Weekend Parking Lot Closure Plan Continues at Some Houston Parks Measures Taken to Encourage Physical Distancing & Prevent Park Overcrowding**

*Plan Includes Limited Parking Access at Buffalo Bayou, Memorial, Hermann & Spotts Parks.*

To help control overcrowding at City parks this weekend, Mayor Sylvester Turner will continue the practice of limiting access to parking lots adjacent to some COH parks for the second weekend in a row. This includes limiting access to parking lots at Buffalo Bayou Park, Memorial Park, Hermann Park and Spotts Park. The goal is to encourage visitors to walk and/or bike to their neighborhood parks, encourage safe physical distancing, and minimize driving while keeping parks open. The closures and limited access to parking lots begin at dusk on Friday, April 24, 2020 and run through the weekend. Parking lots are scheduled to reopen at dawn on April 27, 2020.

“These measures are being put in place in a proactive measure to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Steve Wright, Director Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “Our goal is to help stop park overcrowding and continue to flatten the curve as we continue to battle against COVID-19.”

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department will continue to monitor parks with the Houston Police Department, Urban Park Rangers, Park Partners, and 150 re-assigned parks staffers.

Park visitors are reminded to practice physical distancing and follow all CDC guidelines on personal hygiene prior to heading to neighborhood parks. This includes washing hands, carrying hand sanitizer with you, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and staying at home if you are feeling ill. And remember, if you bring litter into City parks, please dispose of it by tossing it in trash bins, or taking it away for disposal elsewhere. For more information, visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).

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